

April 14, 1980

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taxpayers below the age of 65 and in relationship who of course have no homestead except this very small general homestead applicable to them, and in relationship to the fact that only two years ago the Legislature increased the ceiling from fifteen thousand dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars and this, of course, would be the second increase going from twenty-five to forty thousand dollars, and it just seemed to me and to members of the committee that that kind of an increase from fifteen thousand dollars to forty thousand dollars over, in effect, a three year period was too dramatic and that we shouldn't go quite so far so fast. So I would support the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp and then Senator Lamb. We are on the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Bernice is shaking her head. I will let her talk now. She is fired up.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. May I speak, Mr. Speaker? Let me read you some figures in the increases in valuation on residential homes. Now this does not include commercial property. In 1978 the total for Nebraska went from four billion seven hundred and fifty-one million, had an increase of ninety-two percent. It went to nine billion a hundred and forty million. That is more than double. In Douglas County in 1978 there was an increase on residential homes from...of ninety-six percent. In 1978 it was one billion two hundred and seventy-two. Now this is actual value and it went to two billion five hundred and one million. That is an increase of ninety-six percent. In Lancaster County a hundred and twelve percent increase. It went from eight hundred and twenty-five million to one billion seven hundred and fifty-six million. As I said before when we were discussing Senator Warner's amendment, the re-evaluation on residential homes was raised an average of sixty-five point seven percent, yet Douglas County mill levies declined only twenty-seven point six. Now Senator Warner's amendment saved eight million dollars. I am asking you, is it right to again lower the valuation to thirty-five thousand for the elderly and the disabled when many, many of them in Omaha, I know, and in Lancaster County and Douglas County, Sarpy County, have their homes increased from twenty-five to fifty thousand or from thirty thousand to forty-five thousand. Many of those elderly people have been put back on the tax rolls. After we tried it at thirty-two thousand I got many, many calls and the Commission on Aging, ARP, every eastern Nebraskan, western Nebraska Commission on Aging, urging me to fight and fight hard to keep it at forty thousand

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